



(Pew)

Docket No.: KKH-0028  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Yoji Mizutani et al.

Application No.: 10/617,812

Confirmation No.: 4175

Filed: July 14, 2003

Art Unit: 1762

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD AND  
SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS Examiner: C. I. Sellman

### RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 7, 2005(Paper No. 20051028), Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 19-30, drawn to an apparatus, with traverse.

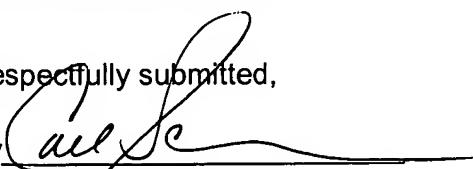
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search or the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP 803 which is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Further, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the claims to the application. In the event the claims are not rejoined to the application, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application encompassing the non-elected claims.

Dated: November 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Carl Schaukowitch

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